

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-25 are pending. Claims 15 and 25 are currently amended. Claim 4 is canceled. The Examiner appears not to have considered the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 3, 2004, and thus did not address claims 20-25. Applicants have addressed the allowability of claims 20-25.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Schneider (GB 2,325,799), without citing a secondary reference. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 recites, "the storage device is arranged as a payload for the vehicle and in the receiving and transmitting of the electrical energy the storage device remains arranged as a payload for the vehicle." Claim 15 as amended similarly recites, "[a] method of storing and transporting electrical energy by means of a vehicle carrying an electrical storage device as a payload." Claim 25 as amended similarly recites, "wherein the means for storing electrical energy is arranged as a payload for the vehicle." The storage devices of Schneider are not arranged as a payload for the vehicle, but instead power the vehicle. Accordingly, claims 1, 15 and 25 are not rendered obvious by Schneider. Claims 2-4, 7, 8 and 20-24 depend from claim 1 and are not rendered obvious by Schneider at least by virtue of their dependencies.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 16-18 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as obvious over Schneider in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,384,569 issued to Pintz, et al. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. The energy storage devices of Pintz, like those of Schneider, are not arranged as a payload. Claims 5-7, 9, 10 and 20-24 depend from claim 1 and claims 16-18 depend from claim 15, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Accordingly, claims 5-7, 9, 10, 16-18 and 20-25 are not rendered obvious by Schneider, alone or in combination with Pintz.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-14 and 19 under 35 USC Section 103(a) as obvious over Schneider in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,960,898 issued to Okada. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Okada is directed to a power supply unit for an electric vehicle. The Examiner does not contend that Okada discloses an energy storage device arranged as a payload. Claims 11-14 and 20-24 depend from claim 1, and claim 19 depends from claim 15. Thus, claims 11-14 and 19-24 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. In

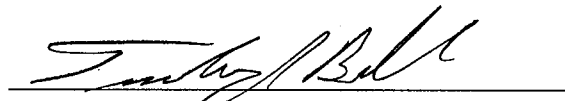
addition, claim 19 recites, "monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles for each storage element; and outputting a corresponding notification when a predetermined number of cycles is reached." The Examiner points generally to ECU 21 in Figure 1 of Okada, but does not specifically identify where in Okada monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles and outputting a corresponding notification is disclosed. If the Examiner continues to believe monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles and outputting a corresponding notification is disclosed in Okada, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner identify where monitoring a number of charge/discharge cycles and outputting a corresponding notification is disclosed in Okada. Accordingly, claims 11-14 and 19-25 are not rendered obvious by Schneider, alone or in combination with Okada.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy L. Boller", is written over a horizontal line.

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